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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

15 July 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Korean Situation

I. Military Situation.

Northern Korean forces are pressing the offensive on all fronts, from Kongju on the Kum River to the area of Tanyang, 90 miles to the east. The North Koreans have penetrated US defenses south of the Kum River near Kongju and forced Southern Korean troops to make further withdrawals.

After a brief reconnaissance of sites suitable for a river crossing and two unsuccessful attempts at a crossing during daylight hours, the enemy 4th Division forded the Kum below Kongju in undetermined strength under cover of darkness last night and overran a US artillery battalion. US forces in this immediate area are withdrawing in the direction of Taejon. Other US units continue to hold the Kum River line east of Konju. Further to the east, the enemy 2nd Division penetrated 9 miles south of Chongju, forcing a general withdrawal of the Southern First Corps and increasing the threat of an encirclement of Taejon.

Northern forces have repaired the airstrip at Kimpo, near Seoul. Two out of seven camouflaged YAK fighters parked on the field were reportedly destroyed by US strafing attacks. Two enemy fighters attacked a flight of four B-26 bombers but were driven off by US fighters after severely damaging one of the bombers.

II. Other Developments.

Northern Korean propaganda broadcasts continue to present speeches obtained from US prisoners and criticizing US action in Korea. The US prisoners are unquestionably under coercion; typical quote. . . "it is the belief of this group of prisoners that. . . the Korean people (should) be permitted to evolve their own international problems." Other Northern broadcasts strongly deny that US prisoners have been murdered and claim that the "People's Republic" is treating captured Americans in accordance with international law.

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Meanwhile, there is some indication that Pyongyang, the Northern Korean regime's capital city, may become the seat of a government of the "Japanese People's Provisional Republic" staffed by Japanese Communists. Seven Central Committeemen of the Japan Communist Party, who were recently "purged" by SCAP, have escaped police surveillance and are reported to have departed for Pyongyang to provide a nucleus for this "Provisional Republic."

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